

Mountaineer

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Carson co-hosts retired general officers conference

Story and photos by
Michael J. Pach

Mountaineer staff

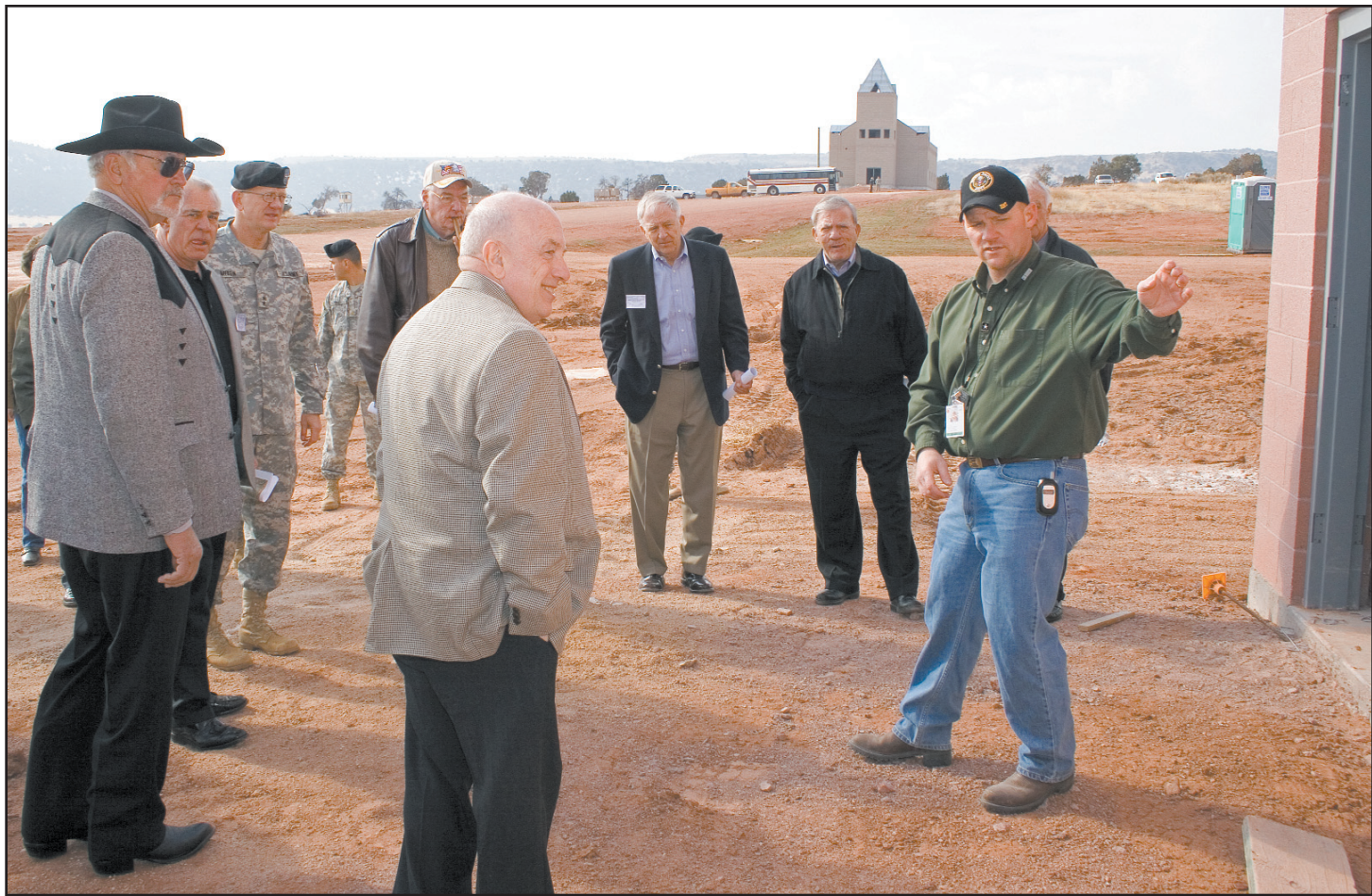
Retired Army and Air Force general officers gathered Monday at Peterson Air Force Base and Fort Carson for a conference to provide an update of military operations in Colorado Springs through briefings and tours of U.S. Northern Command and Fort Carson.

This is the third such conference hosted by Fort Carson in a program that started about a year ago. This is the first time NORTHCOM was involved as co-host.

Approximately 100 retired general officers reside within 60 miles of Colorado Springs and all of them were invited to attend the conference. Fifteen RGOs were on hand as well as several Soldiers who recently returned from Iraq and who answered questions about how current training tactics are relating to combat skills in theater.

The main purpose of the conference is to educate the officers on current training and operational functions so they can make informed decisions when acting as advocates for the military. The secondary purpose is to tap into the retired commanders' expertise by welcoming comments and suggestions.

"We certainly look for their suggestions and they give us a lot of insights," said Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr., commanding general Division West, First Army and Fort Carson, of the RGOs. "We also employ their services and their support as



Range Officer Dan Benford, right, describes the architectural features of a school building that is part of the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility near Camp Red Devil to retired general officers during their visit Monday.

advocates for Soldiers and service-members and what we're doing. They operate in a lot of community and professional civilian enterprises where they can inform people about who we are and what we do. There are a lot of folks that don't get to see us up close and personal, so they (the RGOs) can be advocates because they know (what we're doing) and they've seen it."

The morning conference session was hosted by Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander, U.S. NORTHCOM at Peterson AFB. Briefings were provided by Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, deputy commander, NORTHCOM, and other NORTHCOM commanders, and the guests were given a tour of the command center.

After lunch, the officers were

transported to Camp Red Devil on Fort Carson where they were briefed and given a tour of the Combined Arms Combat Training Facility and the Urban Assault Course by Range Officer Dan Benford.

The officers were then taken to the Close Combat Tactical Training facility

See **RGO** on Page 11

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MUST SEE



Live-fire training at Range 111.
See Pages 32-33.

Word of the month: **COURAGE**

ASBP updates on-line information

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Armed Services Blood Program Web site has been redesigned, offering updated content as well as a new look, officials said.

The new Web site, www.militaryblood.dod.mil, features information on how to join a "Life Force" team of donors, volunteers and supporters. Topics include blood facts, donor eligibility criteria, donor center locations, and more.

Other information offered involves the ASBP "Specialist in Blood Banking" program, its curriculum

and how to apply.

Convenient links direct users to online blood donation appointment scheduling via the "Click to Save Lives" blood drop button on the ASBP home page. Other information links access blood donor eligibility criteria and donation locations.

The new Web site "is very much improved. I think it was very professionally done. I was very impressed," said Margaret Tippy, U.S. Army Medical Command's media relations officer. Located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, U.S. MEDCOM is the executive

See **Blood** on Page 4



Photo by Army News Service

Soldiers in front of the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq proudly display a banner with signatures of support from military blood donors.

Honor Presidents Day

by Douglas M. Rule
Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

Monday is Presidents Day, a day set aside to remember the 42 men who have served the United States as the commander-in-chief.

Originally, both Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, Feb. 12, and George Washington’s, Feb. 22, were the set aside to remember those presidents. Along the way, some thought was given to recognize all our former presidents, so the third Monday in February was designated Presidents Day.

Usually on a day like this, someone writes about presidential trivia, like who was the first president to have a bathtub in the White House? (Generally it is credited to Millard Fillmore, but H.L. Mencken, the prominent journalist, admitted making up that story for the Dec. 28, 1917, edition of The New York Evening Mail. For full details on presidential plumbing, go to www.plumbingworld.com/history/whitehouse.html.) The trivia runs on and on. What would be respectful to their memory would be to take the effort to find out who these 42 men were and what they did as president.

First, to clarify how George W. Bush can be the 43rd president of the United States, but there have only been 42 different men as president: while consecutive terms are not counted as separate presidencies, Grover Cleveland did not win his first re-election bid, but did win four years later, making him president number 22 and 24.

In any case, these 42 men are of vastly different backgrounds. Some were rich and well-educated.

Some were not. Some were elected president, some were thrust into the position, either through the death of the president or by resignation. Regardless, each of these men, in his own way, with his own successes and failures, has helped to forge our country into what it is today.

Too often our view of the term of a president only entails the highlights: this president enacted that bill, that president fought this war. But each of the presidents has had to approach a different set of challenges. Americans are more likely to know the lurid details of the regime of Saddam Hussein than they are to know the difficulties of Reconstruction started under Andrew Johnson following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. What he did and didn’t do affected our country for the next 100 years.

Nowadays, it also seems popular to bring down icons. Thomas Jefferson may have fathered children by a slave, Sally Hemings, who was his deceased wife’s half-sister (in a not-uncommon practice, John Wayles, Martha Wayles Jefferson’s father, had children by his slaves, who, in turn, became additions to his “work force”). Franklin Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower may have had extramarital relationships. John F. Kennedy may have had ties to the Mafia and Marilyn Monroe. And the list goes on. There is no denying that each of these men had faults: they were human, not demi-gods. However, by concentrating on the bad, we lose sight of the good they did.

So these are those men: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison,

James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, James Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, William Clinton and George W. Bush.

Take five minutes over the weekend to find out something about one of these men. Go to the White House pages on the presidents, www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents (make sure you go to the .gov site, the official government site. Going to a .com site of the same name will take you to a sexually-oriented Web site.) The White House site also has a section specifically geared for children, www.whitehouse.gov/kids/presidentsday, which includes presidential biographies written for children by other children and various activity pages. Other Web sites, like the on-line encyclopedia Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org, have sections on the presidency with interesting facts and trivia, as well as biographies of the presidents. And, of course, the Grant Library and the other local libraries have books on the various presidents as well.

Honor our presidents. Honor Presidents Day.

POST TALK: Which president do you admire most?



“Abraham Lincoln. Even though he was criticized for the Civil War, he brought the country together.”

Willie Bridges
Family Member



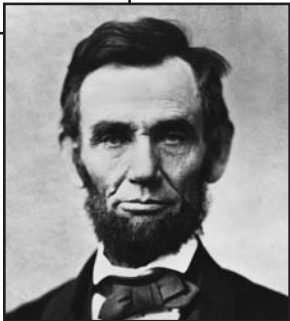
“Harry S. Truman. I am originally from eastern Europe and he helped rebuild Europe after World War II.”

Milka Welder
Librarian,
Grant Library



“Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He saved us from fascism when the world was turning to a lot of different ‘isms.’”

Kevin Bokay
Acting Director,
Grant Library



Lincoln



Truman



Roosevelt

MOUNTAINEER

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NEWS

Army studies latest helo cases to prevent future incidents

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As the Army investigates the recent spate of helicopter crashes in Iraq, it's working to get lessons learned from them back to air crews in the field as quickly as possible.

The service also is stepping up efforts to identify and confront forces behind the attacks, Army officials said.

An Army "shootdown assessment team" from Fort Rucker, Ala., is in Iraq investigating the crashes of a UH-60 Black Hawk and two AH-64 Apaches between Jan. 20 and Feb. 2 that left 16 Soldiers dead, Col. Robert Quackenbush from the Army Aviation Directorate told American Forces Press Service.

"It's a real forensic-type investigation, so it's not something you can get the results of overnight," he said.

The tiniest fragments recovered from a crash site are analyzed to determine what type of enemy weapon system hit the aircraft. This information provides valuable clues into how the enemy is operating and what the Army needs to do about it, he said.

"So, it will take a little bit of time, but we are very confident that we will know when they are done exactly what shot those aircraft down," Quackenbush said.

That, he said, will reveal "what we need to do to improve our capabilities against whatever that threat was."

The Army has lost more than 120 helicopters in the Global War on Terrorism, about 25 percent of them due to enemy engagements.

Determined to keep those numbers down, the Army already has made huge efforts to improve aviation safety. As a result, statistics show that aviation safety has improved steadily since 2003, both in terms of accidents and lives lost, said Chief Warrant Officer Lee Tutin, an aviation survivability equipment action officer.

"Since 2003, the Army has invested more than \$2 billion in aircraft survivability equipment," he said. "And that is part of the direct result of bringing the incident rate down."

All the Army's forward-deployed fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft are equipped with the Common Missile Warning System. In addition, the Army



Photo by 25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

A helicopter lands to extract Iraqi and coalition forces soldiers from an area north of Baghdad after they completed a search of the area for weapons caches.

has improved the ballistic protection of its helicopters "so that if the aircraft does take some small-arms fire, it can still make it home," Quackenbush said.

For every aircraft lost in combat, many more have been engaged by the enemy but made it back to their bases safely thanks to these protections, he said. "And we are continually looking at how we can improve our equipment," he added.

But aviation protections go beyond equipment, to include tactics, techniques and procedures to foil the enemy, he said.

Much of it hinges on being unpredictable. "First of all, when we fly in and out of airfields, we vary when we come in and out, what routes we

take in and out," Quackenbush said.

"We change our tactics and techniques for every mission," Tutin said. "For every mission, the commander and the crew assess what they should be using for that mission. They have a baseline they use, but they adjust them for every mission to prevent predictability."

At the Army's aviation center and school at Fort Rucker, Ala., a tactics branch regularly assesses lessons learned from the field and disseminates them through the schoolhouse and combat theater. "A good idea for one unit may be a good idea for all," Tutin said. "It's all a learning process."

Blood

From Page 1

agent for the military's blood donation program.

It's a little-known fact that about 20 percent of service-members donate blood, compared to less than 5 percent of the civilian populace, Navy Cmdr. Michael C. Libby, director of the U.S. military's blood program, said during a Pentagon Channel interview in December.

Libby said the program collected twice as much blood in 2006 than it did in 2001. That's possible, he said, because of the great generosity of the program's donors.

The U.S. military needs blood every day for critically injured troops, cancer patients, premature infants and other uses, Libby said. The program manages 18 stateside blood

donor centers and four overseas centers. Donors normally give about a pint of blood at a sitting.

Blood is always needed, Libby said, noting blood products normally must be replenished about 42 days after being collected. Frozen blood can be stored for years.

Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy will be participating in an ASBP drive March 19-23. All eligible donors are welcome. The Academy will be holding their portion of the blood drive March 19-21 at Arnold Hall from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Fort Carson will be holding their portion March 22-23 at the Special Events Center from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., although Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Van Dyke said that he will take the necessary steps to make sure that the blood donor station stays open as long as there are donors.

Copter

From Page 3

Lessons also are shared between the services to ensure all aviators operating in the theater have the benefit of the latest safety information, he said.

Ensuring aviation safety is critical because helicopters are critical to the mission in Iraq, Quackenbush said. "The value added that the helicopters provide — the reconnaissance capability, being able to see, being able to provide suppressive fire to Soldiers on the ground, being able to move Soldiers and equipment through the air with our utility aircraft — ... prevents deaths and injuries to Soldiers on the ground," he said.

That's in addition to the tremendous medevac capability helicopters bring to the

mission. Quackenbush credits medevac aircraft with saving "countless lives that we would have lost if we had not had their aircraft there."

"It is a dangerous environment over there, but we do whatever we can to minimize and mitigate that danger," he said. "The value added that the helicopter provides ... outweighs the risk."

The Army's aviation safety record has improved significantly since the beginning of the war on terror, Quackenbush said. Accident levels initially spiked because aircraft were operating in new environments with harsh conditions and, in the case of Afghanistan, high altitudes, he said.

"But we gained a tremendous amount of experience there," he said. "We learned some lessons about

how to operate in those environments. So we trained our aircrews how to operate in those environments."

As a result, he said, accident rates as well as combat losses have declined yearly.

Quackenbush said he expects investigations of the latest crashes in Iraq to reveal details that ensure safety in the future. "Right now, we don't know the exact causes of the last three incidents that the Army has had," he said. "We don't know if that was just the law of averages catching up to us or if, in fact, the enemy is doing something different or has something different. We are going to find that out.

"But we still believe the Army helicopter is a tremendous value added, and it continues to save countless lives."

MILITARY

Career counselor helps Soldiers in Iraq

**Story and photo by
Spc. Courtney Marulli**

*2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd
Infantry Division Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE
RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq** — The life of an Army career counselor is busy enough, but having that responsibility for a large battalion makes it all the more so.

Staff Sgt. Carmen M. Herron, career counselor for 2nd Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, enjoys her work and most of all, talking to Soldiers.

"I just love being around Soldiers, talking to them and finding out what they need and want," she said.

That dedication has resulted in Herron re-enlisting 34 Soldiers since deploying. Herron has also helped Soldiers reap re-enlistment bonuses totaling \$329,861.

Herron was a full-time re-enlistment noncommissioned officer for four years at battalion and brigade levels, and recently went to school to make it her military occupational specialty. She is in her fifth year of helping Soldiers with their careers and to get the re-enlistment

incentives they are entitled to.

"I wanted to go to the school for a long time," she said. "It's not easy to get into it."

When it comes time for Soldiers to re-enlist, Herron said many are choosing the year-of-stability option, which is available for all. In January, the option for reassignment became available to those Soldiers in their re-enlistment window and who are eligible for that option.

Some of the places Soldiers have chosen to re-enlist for are Germany, South Korea and larger military installations such as Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Bragg, N.C., Herron said.

Whenever a Soldier re-enlists, Herron said she gives out an assortment of things such as coffee mugs, phone cards, T-shirts and several different styles of Army Combat Uniform-pattern bags.

Retention is only one part of Herron's role as career counselor. Her other duties are to help Soldiers with career progression or transition smoothly if they choose to return to civilian life. She also directs them to the proper National Guard and Reserve component career counselors if that's the road the Soldier chooses to take.

"If a Soldier is stuck in a dead-end Military Occupational Skill, not getting promoted, I talk to them about reclassing for MOSs in need of Soldiers," she said.

On top of advising which MOSs are in need of Soldiers, Herron also shows Soldiers the steps they can take toward getting promoted.

Herron said she also assists Soldiers with Green-to-Gold, Warrant Officer and Officer Candidate School packets. Soldiers can come to her to get the necessary information and once they have everything together, she looks it over to make sure it was done correctly.

"It's a very rewarding part of my job when I can do the things they need and want," she said.

After giving briefs and taking care of Soldiers during the day, Herron said she will put on her gear, grab her laptop and go visit Soldiers on night guard duty at the gates. "Part of our job is to be visible and available to the Soldiers," she said.

Herron said she tries her best to remain accessible to Soldiers by visiting them on duty, walking all over the Forward Operating Base instead of staying in her office and making sure the



As a career counselor, Staff Sgt. Carmen M. Herron helps Soldiers with their Army progression.

Soldiers find time to come to her.

Herron also works with career counselors of the units her companies are attached to, ensuring none of her Soldiers are left out.

"We all work together as a team," she said. Herron said she loves making sure Soldiers are going strong in careers they will progress in and doing what is best for them and their families.

NCO brings Conjunto music to east Baghdad

**Story and photo by Spc.
Courtney Marulli**

*2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd
Infantry Division Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING
BASE RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq** —
During deployments, many Soldiers
turn to music as a way to pass the



*Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo A. Herrera, a
Nipomo, Calif., native with
Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron,
61st Cavalry Regiment, brought his
accordion to Iraq to help him
unwind during his down time.*

time and unwind after a long mission. Some sing, some compose music, while others play whatever musical instrument they have available.

The guitar is a popular instrument in deployment zones, but for one noncommissioned officer, his guitar got replaced with something more unusual: the accordion.

Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo A. Herrera, a battle NCO for Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, is a self-taught musician of various talents, but his latest venture is playing the accordion to Conjunto music.

"I just like the way it sounds and it's challenging," he said.

Herrera said that as a Mexican-American, he was exposed to Hispanic music and culture growing up and his love for the sound stayed with him. He said he enjoys Tejano music, but it wasn't until his military career led him to Fort Hood, Texas, that he became interested in Conjunto music.

Conjunto means a group, or together, Herrera said, and that is where the accordion comes in. A Conjunto consists of an accordion player, a bass player, a drummer and a bajo sexto player.

The Conjunto style of music started in the 1800s when German settlers moved to northern Mexico

and southern Texas areas.

"They brought polka music with them," he said.

The mixture of polka and traditional Mexican music fused into what is now known as Conjunto. Herrera said it sounds like a Hispanic polka with Spanish lyrics. "Anywhere in south Texas you can find it," he said.

Herrera has been in the Army for 18 years and plans to retire in San Antonio where he can enjoy the form of music that he loves the most.

As a child, Herrera played the guitar and other instruments by teaching himself.

"I kind of have a good ear for music," he said. "I don't really read music. I hear it and can play it."

As a teenager, Herrera played in a few bands, all of different genres. He said he had always played the guitar, bass guitar and drums, but he when he became interested in Conjunto, he wanted to be the lead.

"I chose it because the accordion in this style of music is more or less the lead guitar," he said. "The drums and bass are not quite as complex, so it wasn't a challenge. I wanted to be lead guitar, so I picked up the accordion."

Before he deployed, Herrera said he got to play with Sierra Gold, a band out of Pueblo, that performs Conjunto

music. His musical plans while in Iraq are to improve his skills.

"I've been at a plateau," he said.

Herrera, who usually practices an hour a day when possible, said he wasn't able to practice as much leading up to the deployment due to work and wanting to spend as much time as he could with his family.

"My goal is to be better than when I left," he said.

Herrera is quick to point out that his accordion is not like the one "Weird Al" Yankovic uses, which is a piano accordion.

"I use a button accordion," he said.

A button accordion varies from the piano accordion as it has several buttons instead of keys for notes.

"It's a little smaller and sounds a bit different," he said.

There are 34 buttons, but 68 notes because, like the harmonica, the accordion makes one note as the air is leaving and another when air comes back in.

"The most challenging (aspect) is finding the notes," Herrera said.

Herrera has been playing the accordion for six years. He said it takes a lot of practice to be able to play and not look at the buttons.

"I bought my first accordion at a second-hand store," he said. "It took me a while to start learning."

Military briefs

Miscellaneous

The Indoor Pool — will be closed Saturday for military training. Call 526-3107 if you have questions.

The Environmental Health section of Preventive Medicine — offers training on a variety of topics. Call 526-7922, 526-5274, or 524-7375 to schedule a training session for your unit. Courses include the following topics:

Heat Category Monitoring: Each company or unit's Field Sanitation Team is responsible for monitoring the Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer. EH can train units on how to use this equipment. If your unit needs to order the WBGT, the National Stock Number is 6665-00-159-2218.

Food Service Sanitation Training: EH offers Food Service Sanitation Training for any employees of the DFACs, AAFES, CYS, both military and civilian. The four-hour refresher course is offered monthly, and the eight-hour initial training is held once every other month. The next four-hour refresher courses will be Feb. 27, March 27 and April 24 from 8 a.m.-noon. The next eight-hour initial training classes will be March 8 and May 10 starting at 8 a.m. All classes will be held in the conference room in building 2059. Contact Jim Trainer at james.trainer@amedd.army.mil or 526-5274 or Capt. Teal Reeves at 526-7922 to reserve a seat.

Other classes available: EH also teaches classes to units on heat and cold-injury prevention, sexually transmitted diseases, hearing conservation, medical threat briefings for units that are approaching deployment, field sanitation team, and personal hygiene. Call 526-7922, 526-5274, or 524-7375 to schedule any of these classes or to get more information.

Food Service special events — Family Readiness Groups and units that conduct fundraisers by selling limited food items are required to fill out an

Commanding General's Hotline

by Maj. Gen.
Robert W. Mixon Jr.

*Commanding general,
Division West, First Army
and Fort Carson*



Mixon

The Commanding General's Hotline exists to provide Mountain Post

Team members a channel to express their concerns and good ideas directly to me.

It is in everyone's interest to share information and solve problems efficiently and quickly. The Commanding General's Hotline is one way to successfully resolve difficulties.



Communication is a two-way street, and this is one way I use to communicate with Soldiers, family members, civilian employees and contractors of the Mountain Post team.

There are two avenues to communicate concerns, complaints, suggestions or praise: call the hotline, 526-2677, or go online to www.carson.army.mil, click on "contact us" and complete the form.

Your issue will be worked by me and my staff, but please try to resolve conflicts through traditional means first, including your chain of command.

So that we may process your concern, suggestion, complaint, problem or praise, please give us your name, rank, unit and as much information about the situation as possible.

Psychological Operations & Civil Affairs

The PSYOP and CA Recruiting Teams will be conducting briefings at:

PSYOP BRIEFINGS

EDUCATION CENTER BLDG 1117
21-22 FEB 07 CLASSROOM 223
23 FEB 07 CLASSROOM 202B

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIEFINGS

EDUCATION CENTER BLDG 1117
21 FEB 07 CLASSROOM 302C
22-23 FEB 07 CLASSROOM 202C

BRIEFING TIMES: 1000, 1200 & 1600

Visit Our Website: <http://www.bragg.army.mil/capsyop>

application and checklist for their event. Contact Capt. Teal Reeves at 526-7922, or Sgt. Misty Gordon at 526-7375 for details and a copy of the paperwork needed. The application and checklist are also available through unit Family Readiness Groups.

Operation Warrior Trainer — The OWT program is looking for reserve component Soldiers returning from overseas operations to serve as observer/controller trainers. Reservists have 180 days to apply following demobilization. Call Lt. Col. Michael Hauser at 526-5501 for details or visit www.first.army.mil and click on the Uncle Sam poster.

Officer Candidate School — Packet submissions for direct select and local OCS are handled by the Personnel Services Branch, Military Personnel Division, in building 1218, room 160. OCS direct selection is in effect until Sept. 30, 2007, and there are still slots open. Contact Tom Grady at 526-3947 for more information.

Finance in- and out-processing — The in- and out-processing section of finance has consolidated its operations on the second floor of building 1218. Travel and accessions moved from the first floor of building 1218 to the second floor.

Customers for in- and out-processing should go to room 230 in building 1218, sign in and wait for a technician. Phone numbers remain the same: separations 526-8473/8476/1302; retirement 526-4233/4234/8470; travel 526-9930/0507/0475; accessions 526-8479/8236/4558; and chief of in- and out-processing 526-6230.

DPW services — The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of services on Fort Carson. Services range from repair and maintenance of facilities to equipping units with a sweeper and cleaning motor pools. Listed below are phone numbers and points of contact for services:

- Facility repair/service orders — KIRA service order desk can be reached at 526-5345. Use this number for emergencies or routine tasks.
- Refuse/trash — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 when needing trash containers, trash is overflowing or emergency service is required.
- Facility custodial services — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 for service needs or to report complaints.
- Elevator maintenance — Call Sharon Gayle at 526-1695.
- Motor pool sludge removal/disposal — Call Don Phillips at 526-9271.

• Repair and utility/self-help — Call Gary Grant at 526-5844. Use this number to obtain self-help tools and equipment or a motorized sweeper.

• Base operations contract Contracting Officer Representative — Call Terry Hagen at 526-9262 for reporting wind damage, snow removal concerns, damaged traffic signs or other facility damage.

• Portable latrines — Call Woody at 526-1854 to request latrines, for service or to report damaged or overturned latrines.

DFAC hours — Fort Carson dining facilities operate under the following hours:

Wolf Inn — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

Butts Army Airfield — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Patton Inn — Monday-Friday 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 5-7 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

10th SFG — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Briefings

Retirement briefings — are held every second and third Wednesday of the month.

ACAP briefing — The Army Career and Alumni Program preseparation briefing is required for all departing servicemembers. Current ACAP policy requires personnel ending time in service to register one year out and retirees two years out. ACAP preseparation briefings are held Monday-Thursday from 7:30-9 a.m.

Attendees should report to ACAP by 7:15 a.m. to building 1117, room 114. Call 526-1002 to schedule the briefing.

ETS briefing — ETS briefings for enlisted personnel will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month until further notice. Briefing sign-in begins at 7 a.m. at building 1042, room 310. Briefings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Soldiers must be within 120 days of their ETS but must attend the briefing no later than 30 days prior to their ETS or start date of transition leave. Call 526-2240 for more information.

Carson honors Soldiers



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Spc. Collin R. Schockmel

Aug. 24, 1987 - Jan. 16, 2007

Schockmel was born in Texas and joined the Army Sept. 20, 2005. He came to Fort Carson in January 2006 and was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He was killed in action while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Schockmel's awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon. Schockmel is survived by his mother, Kristan Shinn, his father, Johnny Perez, and his grandmother, Bernadine Schockmel.

Pfc. Ming Sun

Oct. 23, 1986 - Jan. 9, 2007

Ming was born in China and joined the Army March 23, 2006. He came to Fort Carson in August 2006 and was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He was killed in action while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sun's awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon. Sun is survived by his mother, Zheng Liu, his father, Hong Yuan Sun, and his sister, Allison Sun.

Pfc. Brian M. Williams

May 7, 1986 - Jan. 8, 2007

Williams joined the Army Aug. 18, 2005. He came to Fort Carson July 8, 2006, and was assigned to E Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He died at his home in Albert Lea, Minn., while on leave. Williams' awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon. Williams is survived by his mother, Connie Scott, his father, Donald Williams, and his brother, Jaime Scott.



Photos by Michael J. Pach



Above: The firing squad stands ready for firing of volleys. **Top middle:** Helmets of the fallen Soldiers stand atop their weapons on their memorial displays. **Top right:** Michael Haley of the Fountain Police Department exits Soldiers' Memorial Chapel as he plays the bagpipes during the memorial service. **Lower middle:** Identification tags hang from a weapon in front of the unit colors.

COMMUNITY



Battle Command Training Division Director Mike White briefs retired general officers at the Close Combat Tactical Training facility.

RGO

From Page 1

where Battle Command Training Division Director Mike White discussed digital training tactics and provided the opportunity for the guests to test the tank and Bradley vehicle simulators.

The overall response to the conference by the attendees was positive.

"It was all very positive," said retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Wes Clark. "This is the third trip I've made here and the first time I've been downrange to Camp Red Devil. They obviously still have a lot of difficult things to do, but they'll get them done."

"I think it was a very exciting visit," said retired Air Force Gen. John G. Lorber. I've got new confidence in what we're doing and it (the conference) gave me a lot of answers to questions I had. I'm able to be a better component of supporting our military efforts. I'm enlightened and excited to tell people what I saw today and to gain their support also."

"I certainly learned a lot, no question about it," said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert G. Stein. "This is my third retired general officer conference, and each one gets better and better.

This is the first time we've gone to NORTHCOM, and I thought it was very good how General Mixon integrated the two tours. I went out of there (NORTHCOM) with a higher level of confidence in homeland security."

"It was an astonishing event for me," said retired Maj. Gen. John Mitchell. "I'd been in the service about 17 years and the development of the Army and its equipment, to say nothing of the



Trainer Frank Davenport demonstrates the workings of a tank trainer to retired Air Force Gen. John G. Lorber at the Close Combat Tactical Training facility.

troops, is simply remarkable. I stand in awe of what I've heard and seen and what I believe I can hope will be the future, not only for these troops, but for the equipment these troops are going to be using. This has been a dramatic thing for me to have experienced, and I wish all of these troops the best of wishes and Godspeed."



Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr. talks to retired general officers during their tour of the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility near Camp Red Devil Monday.



Retired general officers, Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr. and Fort Carson Soldiers chat on the bus during their downrange tour of Fort Carson.

Community briefs

Miscellaneous

GMH Mountain Meltdown Fitness Challenge — is for GMH housing residents. Registration ends Friday. Lose the weight; get in shape; feel good and win gifts and prizes. Register by calling Mark Browning at 576-3198 or e-mail him at browning@gmh-inc.com or visit GMH Military Family Housing Outreach Coordinators Office at the Colorado Inn, building 7301, room 109.

Red Cross Lifeguard Class — is at the Fort Carson indoor pool, building 1446. Classes start March 12. Registration is Tuesday-March 9. The class fee of \$125 must be paid in order to register. Cost of materials is \$49. Participants must be at least 15 years old and pass a pre-course. For more information call Stephanie Kowaluk at 526-3107.

Carson Cares — an orientation for newly arrived spouses is the first Thursday of each month. The next one will be March 1, from 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Call 526-1070 for a reservation.

Carson Cares includes: lunch and refreshments, a welcome gift, a presentation by various guest speakers about numerous on post and off post resources and programs, and a van tour of the post. Call 526-2463 for free child care.

Adoption Workshop and Information Fair — is April 24 at the Armed Services YMCA, 2190 Jetwing Drive. Local and infant open adoptions, foster adoptions, interstate adoptions, international adoption services and financial/military information will be offered. For more information and to register by April 23, call Jean McClintock at 526-4590.

Fort Carson Veterinary Treatment Facility — will be closed Monday and Feb. 28. Normal business hours are 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. For more information call 526-9841.

National Military Family Association — needs volunteers to serve as reviewers of applications for the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program. Volunteer commitment includes: a three-five hour period of time between Feb. 26 and April 7; view a one-hour Web-seminar training session from home; review and score between 50-150 applications (your choice) from home. Contact VSRadmin@nmfa.org by Tuesday.

Operation Purple free camp for children of deployed parents — The camp is for children of servicemembers who have deployment orders between May 2006-Sept. 2008. The dates listed on the Operation Purple Web site are incorrect. For more information, contact Barbara Dowling at 339-1830.

Phase II of the Harr Avenue reconstruction — begins Wednesday, slightly ahead of schedule. Only the existing asphalt pavement will be removed at this time. This will allow the contractors who are building the new family housing units on the hill west of Harr Avenue to install/bury and relocate the essential utilities to support the new homes.

The Phase II section of road will remain open to traffic during construction but will be a gravel surface. Use caution in the construction zone; the speed limit is 20 mph.

The Fort Carson Army Career and Alumni Program — will host a job fair at the Elkhorn Conference Center, March 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The job fair is free. If you are retiring or separating within the next two years, or if you are a family member looking for a local job, then this job fair is for you.

Federal agencies, defense contractors, police departments, trucking companies, retail companies, search firms and other industries will attend. For more information call 526-1002.

Deployment Support Group — Are you feeling lonely, anxious or fearful about this deployment? Join this group of caring spouses. To register call Army Community Service at 526-4590. Free child care is available for registered children.

The support group meets Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at the Family University, building 1161, on the corner of Ellis and Barkeley.

Free tax services available — for all active duty servicemembers, mobilized Reservists, servicemembers receiving retirement or disability pay and family members or surviving family members of the aforementioned.

Visit the Fort Carson Tax Center on Woodfill Road, building 6284. Hours of operation: Mondays-Thursdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed on federal and training holidays.

Information to bring: military identification, all W-2 forms, Social Security cards for Soldiers and all dependents and a copy of 2005 or prior-year tax return. For more information call 524-1012/1013.

Video Messenger — is free at the library. Soldiers and family members can record a video in either mini-DVD or VHS before and during deployments. Call 526-2350 to schedule an appointment.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings — are held each Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. at the Colorado Inn, corner of Sheridan Avenue and Woodfill Road, building 7301, room 203. Call 322-9766 or 471-1625 for more information.

No physical training zone — The area under construction, north of Ranges 69 and 5, should not be used for any training at any time. Construction is under way. The area is bracketed to the north by Khe Sahn Street, to the east by Barkeley Avenue, and to the west by Brown Road, Titus Boulevard and Specker Avenue.


Child and Youth Services, Caring Saturdays — Free child care for families of deployed Soldiers is offered the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon to 7 p.m., in the East Child Development Center, building 6058.

Families must bring a copy of their sponsor's deployment orders and their child's up-to-date immunization record. For reservations call 524-4218. For further information call 526-1101.

Evans Army Community Hospital — The correspondence division of the Patient Administration Department will be closed Thursdays from noon-6 p.m. Release of information requests will not be taken during this time. This closure will create faster turnaround time for copies of records.

Ongoing road closures — Portions of Specker Avenue and Titus Boulevard will be closed until April.

Questions about the closure or disruption of traffic along Butts Road can be addressed to Fort Carson's Directorate of Public Works Traffic Engineer, Rick Orphan, at 526-9267 or Fort



Army Community Service
Family Readiness Center, Bldg 1526
TEL: (719) 526-4590

Care Team Volunteers Group

Keeping Your Life in Balance While Helping Others

The group is open to all Care Team Volunteers and will provide an environment for learning and sharing, while helping Care Team members be better prepared and more effective. Topics will vary based upon the needs of the group.

Monday, 12 March
Mornings @ 9:30 to 11:00A.M. or
Evenings @ 6:00 to 7:30P.M.

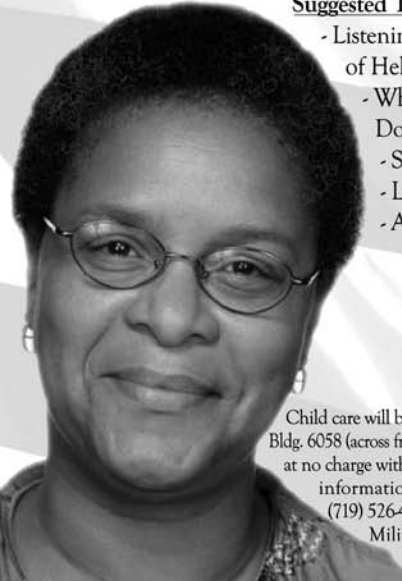
Monday, 9 April
Mornings @ 9:30 to 11:00A.M. or
Evenings @ 6:00 to 7:30P.M.

Monday, 14 May
Mornings @ 9:30 to 11:00A.M. or
Evenings @ 6:00 to 7:30P.M.

Meetings will be held monthly at the
Family Connection, Bldg 1354 (Barkeley Avenue)

Suggested Topics:

- Listening: A Cornerstone of Helping
- What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say
- Self Care
- Lessons Learned
- Avoiding Burnout



Child care will be provided at the East Center, Bldg. 6058 (across from Soldiers Memorial Chapel), at no charge with prior reservations. For more information or to register, please call (719) 526-4590 or contact June Toombs, Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) at (719) 338-7216.

Carson's Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Resident Office, Maj. John Hudson, at 526-4974.

Post Traumatic Stress help — "LZ Calvary" is a small group Bible study and support group for veterans experiencing the effects of post traumatic stress disorder. Join a group of veterans who are experienced in combat-related problems and who have successfully dealt with the memories and effects of combat as they deal with PTSD-related problems through the study of God's word, fellowship and group discussion.

Meetings are held Mondays at 10 a.m. at Grace Brethren Church, 2975 Jet Wing Drive. Call Robert P. Schaffer at 390-8096 or 510-6009 for more information.

Claims against the estate —

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Pfc. Michael Christopher Balsley, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Adam J. Jackman at 526-9857.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Sgt. Alexander Henry Fuller, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Adam J. Jackman at 526-9857.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Pfc. Ming Sun, deceased, should contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew T. Gibbs at 339-8641.

**Keep up on Fort Carson news:
Visit the Web site at www.carson.army.mil.**

Consider renter's insurance a necessity

by Mark R. Silla

Legal Assistance Attorney, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Legal Assistance Division

During the early morning hours of Jan. 16, fire broke out at the Castle West Apartments in Colorado Springs. Firefighters had to evacuate 200 tenants from the 135-unit apartment complex which was completely destroyed due to arson. But according to Lt. Sharon McCreery of the Salvation Army, most of the residents displaced by the fire did not have renter's insurance and must now rely upon charity or savings to replace their personal property and to put a roof over their heads. So this raises the question: Why do so few renters have renter's insurance when more than 95 percent of homeowners have fire insurance?

First, many renters mistakenly believe that loss, damage or theft of personal property is covered by the property owner. But in reality, the property owner or their insurance company has no obligation to reimburse a tenant for the loss, damage or theft of their personal property unless it can be proven that the loss was the fault of the property owner. Second, a large number of people do not believe that a tragedy of this sort could happen to them so they believe it to be a waste of money to purchase renter's insurance. Renters would be seriously wrong to believe in both myths and not having renters insurance would be a mistake, even if you don't own an expensive art collection.

Renter's insurance can provide funds to replace personal possessions, cover living expenses for those displaced by fire and cover damage to property caused by smoke, lightning, theft, explosion,

windstorms and water, with the exception of flooding.

One additional benefit of renter's insurance is liability coverage for accidents which occur both inside and outside the residence, such as dog bite cases or slip-and-fall cases. When purchasing renter's insurance, be sure to determine whether the coverage you are buying is "actual cash value" or "replacement cost coverage."

ACV coverage will reimburse you for what your property was worth at the time it was damaged or stolen. For example, if you bought a television five years ago for \$300, it would be worth significantly less on the date of loss and your insurance company would be obligated to reimburse you for what the television is presently worth.

RCC coverage costs more, but it will pay what it actually costs to replace the damaged or stolen item. Generally speaking it is better to have RCC coverage instead of ACV coverage.

The cost of renter's insurance varies, but is generally quite reasonable and will usually cost between \$200-\$350 yearly for \$30,000 of property coverage and \$100,000 of liability coverage. Many insurance companies offer discounts if renter's insurance is bought along with auto insurance. The costs of renter's insurance will also vary based upon factors such as distance to the nearest fire station,

See **Insurance** on Page 26



One Fort Carson Soldier and his family were displaced in the recent Castle West fire, pictured left. Many families were left homeless and without basic necessities for starting a new house.

Photo by Douglas M. Rule

Volunteers of the Quarter recognized

Volunteers of the Quarter, from left, Tana Caballero, Family Readiness Group, Melissa Weaver, Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management, Stephanie Sharp standing in for Cathy Hanson, Fort Carson Officers' Spouse's Club and Hanna Juel, youth volunteer, pose with their achievement certificates after being recognized for their contributions at the garrison commander's staff meeting Feb. 8.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Be cautious around Carson blue drums



Photo by Susan C. Galentine

Drum inspections are conducted regularly to ensure their integrity prior to final disposal.

by Vanessa Hinkle

Directorate Environmental Compliance and Management

Fort Carson residents may have noticed blue barrels in the middle of a field or in another peculiar place appearing to be abandoned. Well, not quite. These mysterious drums were left there on purpose by the Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management. Fort Carson runs a robust environmental investigation and cleanup program and it is because of this program that the blue barrels show up in odd places.

What's in them?

The barrels are used to temporarily store excess water from pumping investigative groundwater wells, extra soil from soil sampling activities and used materials, such as gloves, generated when samples are taken. So that's it, just minimally contaminated water, dirt and plastic.

Why bother putting that stuff in a barrel? Why not just dump it back on the ground?

Some of the dirt can be dumped back on the ground when test results come back. However, because the material may have come in contact with contamination, some of the water, dirt and plastic may be considered a solid waste or even a "hazardous waste." In these cases, the barrels must be rigorously tracked and are collected and then disposed of in accordance with strict state regulations. This is why it's important to never damage or move them.

Hazardous waste? Does that mean it is harmful?

Not necessarily. The amount of contaminants is usually very low and the blue barrels are water- and air-tight. Under normal conditions, the material cannot escape. This is why it's important to never try to open them.

How do I know they are DECAM's blue barrels and not something else?

The blue barrels associated with DECAM's programs are all clearly identified and have a phone number on them. If there are any questions about the barrels, call 526-8001.

Youth mayor helps children

**Story and photo by
Rebecca E. Tonn**

Mountaineer staff

George A. Perez, age 15, has been youth mayor of Kiowa village since April. His mother Stacey is the deputy mayor and his father, Sgt. 1st Class George H. Perez, 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry

Division, recently returned from Iraq.

Joey Bautista, mayoral program coordinator for Army Community Service, said he appoints youth mayors to get youth engaged in the community. Youth mayors act as a liaison between adults and children in the village: they help out the mayors, they help with special events and cook outs, and they attend mayoral meetings when they

are not in school, Bautista said.

George attends some of the village meetings and enjoys helping the younger children in his village. Growing up in a military family, he knows how hard it is for children, since his dad has been deployed or on unaccompanied overseas assignments three times. He gets through his dad's absences by playing sports and staying active in the community.

"It's hard when your dad can't always be there for you. I tell them (the younger children) 'keep praying that they'll come back, and wait. And keep trying — don't give up in sports,'" George said.

As youth mayor, George keeps the park near his house clean, distributes the Kiowa newsletter each month, helps out the younger children in the village and supervises them when they play on the playground.

"I try to set an example for the younger kids — I don't tease them or make fun of them if they can't do something. I go up and play basketball with my brother (Joseph, age 12), and the little kids come up and ask if they can play. We tell them to go ahead, jump in and play," George said.

A student at Fountain-Fort Carson

High School, George plays on the soccer team. In middle school he played basketball and soccer and ran track. Soccer is his favorite sport. He likes to study science. Burger King is his first choice for on-post dining and Golden Corral is his favorite off-post restaurant. Even though it takes time to volunteer and help out, he knows it's good for him and the younger children.

"The volunteer hours and community service make me a better person and it'll probably help me on my resume for college, too," George said.

After high school, George plans to enter law enforcement. He wants to be on a Special Weapons and Tactics team and to settle down somewhere, after moving so frequently with the military.

"George helps Bill Reed coach the Youth Center Bulls. He runs plays with them at the Special Events Center when they practice," Stacey said. Both of his parents are proud of him and his involvement in the Fort Carson community.

"He helps out when I'm gone; he grew up a lot in the last year (while Perez was deployed). It's good knowing I have an older son around the house when I'm gone," Perez said.



George A. Perez, in red, runs a play with the Youth Center Bulls at the Special Events Center Jan. 31.

Wireless Internet access returns

by Kevin Bokay

Acting library director, Grant Library

Grant Library, the on-post library, now has free wireless-Internet service available.

Responding to patron requests, the library has recently reinstalled free wireless Internet access. Bring in your wireless-equipped laptops and sit anywhere in the library to enjoy surfing the Web on

your own time, at your own pace. You can study online course materials, write e-mails, do online banking, pursue hobbies and interests, read the latest news or even shop.

The library also offers 36 public access computers for those authorized users who don't own laptops.

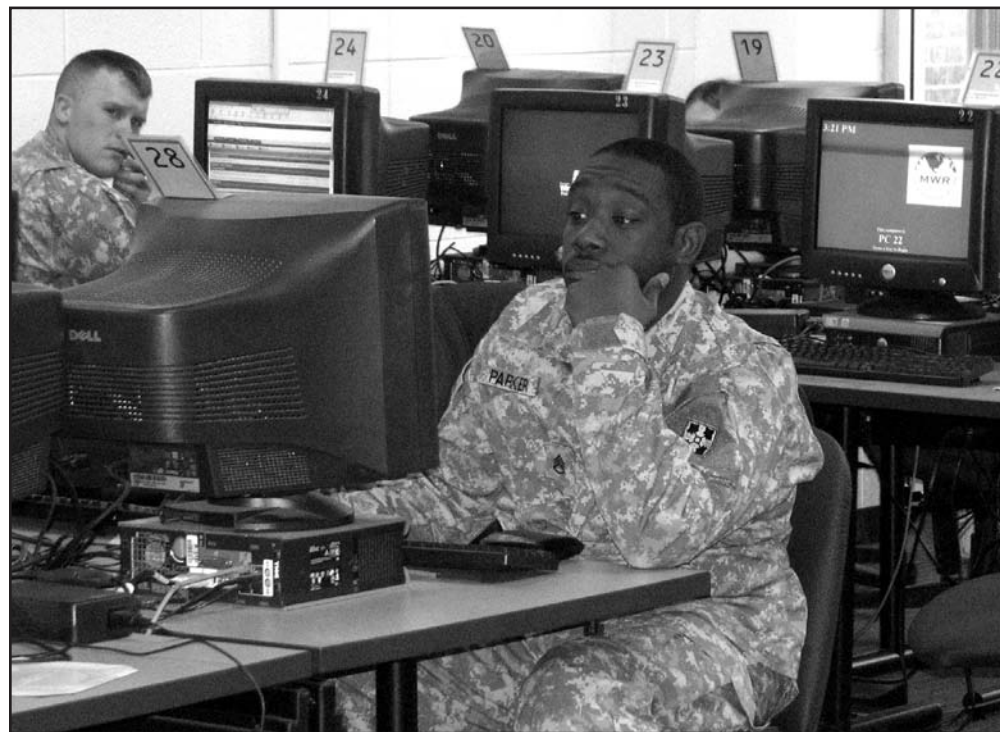
In addition to Internet services, the library also boasts a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction materials in books, DVDs, compact discs, talking

books and other media. There is a large selection of children's books and a reading program for pre-schoolers every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

The Grant Library, located at 1637 Flint Street near the Commissary and the Family Readiness Center, is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 526-2350 or 526-8144.



Pvt. Derek Quinn, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, tries out the wireless service on his laptop at Grant Library.



Staff Sgt. Stephon Parker, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, takes advantage of the Grant Library computers.

Count blessings, thank spouses

**by Chap. (Lt. Col.)
David A. Pollok Jr.**

*Evans Army
Community Hospital*

Valentine's Day.

What a great time for falling in love again. It's a time to reflect on the loving things your spouse has done for you over the year. Sometimes we need to take the time to sit back count the blessings our spouse has given us and do something that says, "thanks."

What are some of those everyday things that you often take for granted, that your spouse does out of love for you? Does he get up and go to work every day? Does she make breakfast, pack a lunch, every day? What about fixing that broken pipe, sweeping the carpet,

or those special occasions "eating out," aren't they daily ways of saying "I love you" or "I care about you"? Then there are all those times when you are in the field or deployed: the home front needs are taken care of and your spouse is there faithfully waiting for your return. What have you done to say "thanks" for those day after day, moment by moment, things your spouse has done and continues to do that are done out of love for you? What an opportunity you have to do something that recognizes the love your spouse has for you.

Valentine's Day is a perfect day to just step back and take a good long look at your spouse and reflect on how it all happened. How did you meet? What really attracted you to him/her? Why did you decide you wanted to be together — forever? What about those special qualities that keep you loving each other? And what about those little

"quirks" that make you laugh or that just make "him" him or "her" her? It's worth the time to step back and think about the blessings, the beauty, the value and worth, the strength that you have in your spouse.

The scriptures tell us "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." (Philippians 4:8) We all spend more than enough time criticizing each other each day; it's time to take the opportunity to speak and think good about each other. Is there a better time than Valentine's Day? At least that's a good day to begin to talk and think good about each other — then maybe you could make it part of your everyday routine. If you're struggling in your marriage, maybe, just maybe this will be the time you fall in love again.



Chapel

Roman Catholic Ash Wednesday Services

Feb. 21: Soldiers' Memorial Chapel — noon and 4 p.m.; Healer Chapel at Evans hospital, noon.

“Vision for the Nations” study at Soldiers’ Memorial Chapel — Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Few would imagine that one of the most important movements all over the world is the work of Christian missions. Missionaries are carrying the word of God to people around the world. “Vision for the Nations” helps adults see their role in this exciting work by examining the biblical, historical, cultural and strategic perspectives of world missions.

Soldiers’ Memorial Chapel Protestant Sunday School — The “Treasure Island”

Protestant Sunday School emphasizes key Bible stories while having fun with music and games. Classes for all ages are each Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Registration may be completed Sunday morning at Soldiers’ Memorial Chapel, building 1500.

AWANA — Because children matter to God. What is influencing your children? Today’s children are being influenced by so many things — the media, their friends, school and even video games.

AWANA teaches children that God is real and that he loves them. AWANA clubs give children clear guidance in a world of conflicting messages.

AWANA is an international, nondenominational organization with a goal of reaching boys and girls with the gospel of Christ. AWANA is sponsored by the Fort Carson Chaplain Program and meets Thursdays at Soldiers’ Memorial Chapel 5-7 p.m. For more information call Stacy Chapman at 382-3970.

Chapel Schedule

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
Mon., Wed., Fri.	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Tues., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/576-7412
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Tuesday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769

PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Cartee/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Communion	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Mitchell/650-8042
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans’	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers’	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511
Sunday	9 a.m.	Samoa	Veterans’	Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-3888

JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

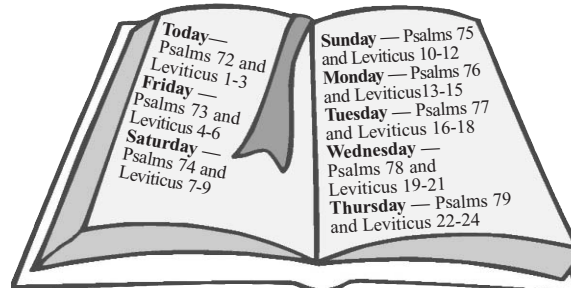
WICCA

Monday 6:30 p.m. building 4800, corner of Harr and O’Connell Rhonda Helfrich/338-9464

NATIVE AMERICAN SWEAT LODGE

Native American Sweat lodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel. These lodges are traditional Lakota spiritual ceremonies for cleansing, purification and prayer, and are fully sanctioned and supported by the Fort Carson Chaplain Command. Please call the following for information and directions: Charlie Erwin at 382-8177 or erwincl@msn.com; or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929.

Daily Bible readings: To assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary, which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.



The Army Cycle of Prayer

Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the Soldiers, families and leaders of the 29th Infantry Division (National Guard), headquartered in Virginia and currently serving in Kosovo, Serbia.

Army: For the dedicated officers, noncommissioned officers, and Soldiers who serve the Army on isolated tours around the world. Pray for their families at home.

State: For all Soldiers and their families from the state of Washington. Pray also for Gov. Christine Gregoire and the state

legislators and municipal officials of the Evergreen State.

Nation: For the 100 elected members of the United States Senate, and their task of crafting both the public and foreign policies that lead the United States.

Religious: For the Christian celebration of Ash Wednesday Feb. 21. As we begin Lent, ask God to remind us of the cost to him of our sinfulness.

For more information on the Army Cycle of Prayer, or to pray for items from previous weeks, visit the cycle's Web site at www.armychaplain.com.

Commissary scholarship deadline is Feb. 21

by Carrie Williams,
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — While chocolate and flowers are traditional Valentine gifts, perhaps for students the best gift is a \$1,500 scholarship. The Scholarships for Military Children program might be just the ticket this Valentine's Day, but don't procrastinate because applications must be turned in at a commissary by close of business Feb. 21.

The scholarships are available to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current identification card.

An applicant must be planning to attend an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Scholarship applications are available at 263 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at www.commissaries.com,

www.militaryscholar.org or www.dodea.edu.

Along with their application, applicants must include an essay on "how and why" they would change an historical event. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, DeCA director and chief executive officer. "Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling more than \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers who sell groceries in commissaries, and every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

A significant number of scholarships, about 10 percent every year, go to high school students at DOD schools overseas. "Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"With college costs soaring, our DOD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard," said Tafoya. "They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education and increased opportunities for all students."

The scholarship program has also made inroads to increasing support from the "nonmilitary" community. California high school students sponsoring golf tournaments in 2006 raised thousands of dollars to donate to the program, and already for 2007, a private foundation has made a substantial donation.

"We're excited to see this worthwhile program gaining recognition and funding from the community at large," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications at Fisher House Foundation. "Commissary industry support has been amazing and increased public support can only help ensure that the Scholarships for Military Children program continues to benefit the military community for many years to come."

Donations can be made through the link at www.militaryscholar.org, the official program Web site.

Insurance

From Page 14

location in high crime areas, or age of the apartment building. You can keep premiums low by increasing your deductible but you should be certain that you can afford whatever deductible you select. It is probably a good idea to photograph or videotape all items of value in your home once a year. Place the tape or pictures along with any receipts in a safety deposit box or other safe place outside the home so you can substantiate your claim with the insurance company in the event of loss.

Soldiers who reside on post might also need renter's insurance. Limited coverage is provided by the Army and by the Fort Carson Family Housing Office for the loss or theft of personal property, but often the reimbursable amount will not fully cover the entire amount of loss. Check with the Claims Division of the Staff Judge Advocate Office or the housing contractor to determine whether any benefits are available whenever property loss occurs on post.

The Claims Division can be reached by calling 526-1355. All other questions about renter's insurance should be directed to your insurance agent or by contacting the Legal Assistance Office at 526-5572.

Civilian Education System

Transforms leaders through education

Army Knowledge Online

Transformation of the Army begins with educating the Army's leaders. The Civilian Education System is a new progressive and sequential leader development program that provides enhanced leader development and education opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers. Army civilians will become Pentathlete civilian leaders of the 21st century who personify the warrior ethos in all aspects, from war-fighting support to statesmanship, to business management. The CES leader development program includes four courses that replace the previous inventory of legacy courses offered for Army Civilians — Foundation, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.

Attendance during the resident portions will be centrally funded (travel and per diem). Students local to the training facilities will not be in a temporary duty status.

The Foundation Course is for civilians entering the Army work force with various levels of previous experience. This course is entirely distributed learning. Students will learn to understand and appreciate Army values and customs, serve professionally as a member of the Department of the Army, acquire foundation

competencies for leader development, develop effective communication skills, and be ready to assume a first leadership role.

The Foundation Course is currently in development.

The Basic Course is for leaders who exercise direct leadership to effectively lead a team. This course will be a combination of distributed learning and a two week resident phase at AMSC's Fort Leavenworth, Kan., campus. Students will understand and apply basic leadership skills to effectively lead and care for small teams, apply effective communication skills, and develop and mentor subordinates.

Campus: Fort Leavenworth

Lodging: Hoge Barracks

POC: Carrie Criqui, Registrar
913-758-3506, DSN 585-3506
cesbc@leavenworth.army.mil

The Intermediate Course is for leaders who exercise direct and indirect supervision and is a combination of distributed learning and a three-week resident phase at AMSC's Fort Leavenworth or Fort Belvoir, Va., campuses. Students learn skills to manage human and financial resources; direct program management

and systems integration; display flexibility, resilience, and focus on the mission.

Campus: Fort Belvoir

Lodging: Knadle Hall

POC: Angela Williams, Registrar
703-805-4757, DSN 655-4757
registrar@amsc.belvoir.army.mil

Campus: Fort Leavenworth

Lodging: Hoge Barracks

POC: Carrie Criqui, Registrar
913-758-3506, DSN 585-3506
cesbc@leavenworth.army.mil

The Advanced Course is for leaders who exercise predominately-indirect supervision and is a combination of distributed learning and four week resident phase at AMSC's Fort Belvoir campus. Students become skilled in leading a complex organization; managing human and financial resources; leading change; inspiring vision and creativity; directing program management and systems integration; displaying flexibility, resilience, and focus on mission.

Campus: Fort Belvoir

Lodging: Knadle Hall

POC: Angela Williams, Registrar
703-805-4757, DSN 655-4757
registrar@amsc.belvoir.army.mil

Military Job Fair

Employers hire Soldiers

**Story and photos by
Rebecca E. Tonn**

Mountaineer staff

The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce hosted its third annual Military Job Fair Feb. 8 at the Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel. More than 1,200 active duty, spouses and transitioning military personnel attended.

Leo Chaney, vice president of the Military Affairs Council of the chamber, said that 78 exhibitors attended — compared to 51 last year.

“We’ve bridged the gap between the private and military sectors. It was a collaborative effort with Army Community Service, the Army Career and Alumni Program, the Transition Assistance Program and the Air Force Family Support Center.

“Colorado Springs Military Newspaper Group and Pikes Peak Workforce Center were our support agencies,” Chaney said.

Fort Carson Soldiers attended, thankful for an opportunity to pursue post-military career options.

Sgt. 1st Class Lionel Allamby, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, said the job fair was helpful.

“I’m about to retire, so I need to change professions,” Allamby said.

Prospective employers also found the military fair useful.

“We’ve hired quite a few people whose resumes we got here at the fair,” said Kevin Estrem, senior manager of Department of Defense Programs for Computer Sciences Corporation. Estrem is a former Air Force chief master sergeant.

Colorado Springs police officer Tony Pickering said the Colorado Springs Police Department has hired numerous active duty Army, Reserve and retired military personnel.

“It’s important to connect with the military; they have maturity from deployments or being stationed overseas. They have life skills that



Trish Frandsen, left, branch manager for WSi Personnel Services, discusses career options with Sgt. 1st Class Robert Watts, 362nd Field Artillery, 5th Armored Brigade, Division West, First Army.



Colorado Springs police officer, Tony Pickering, left, speaks with Sgt. 1st Class Lionel Allamby, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, right, while Allamby's wife, Kenya Boyd-Allamby, center, listens.

other people, even those with college degrees, don't have. And we (CSPD) appreciate what the military and family members are doing," Pickering said.

For those who missed the job fair, ACAP is available to help with job transitioning. Call ACAP at 526-1002.



A Soldier fires a squad automatic weapon with a ring mount from an M1075.



Sgt. Adam Treloar fires his weapon out the window of an M915A3 tractor and hits the target.



Soldiers hookup a tow bar between two M915 tractors, after one was "disabled" by an IED.

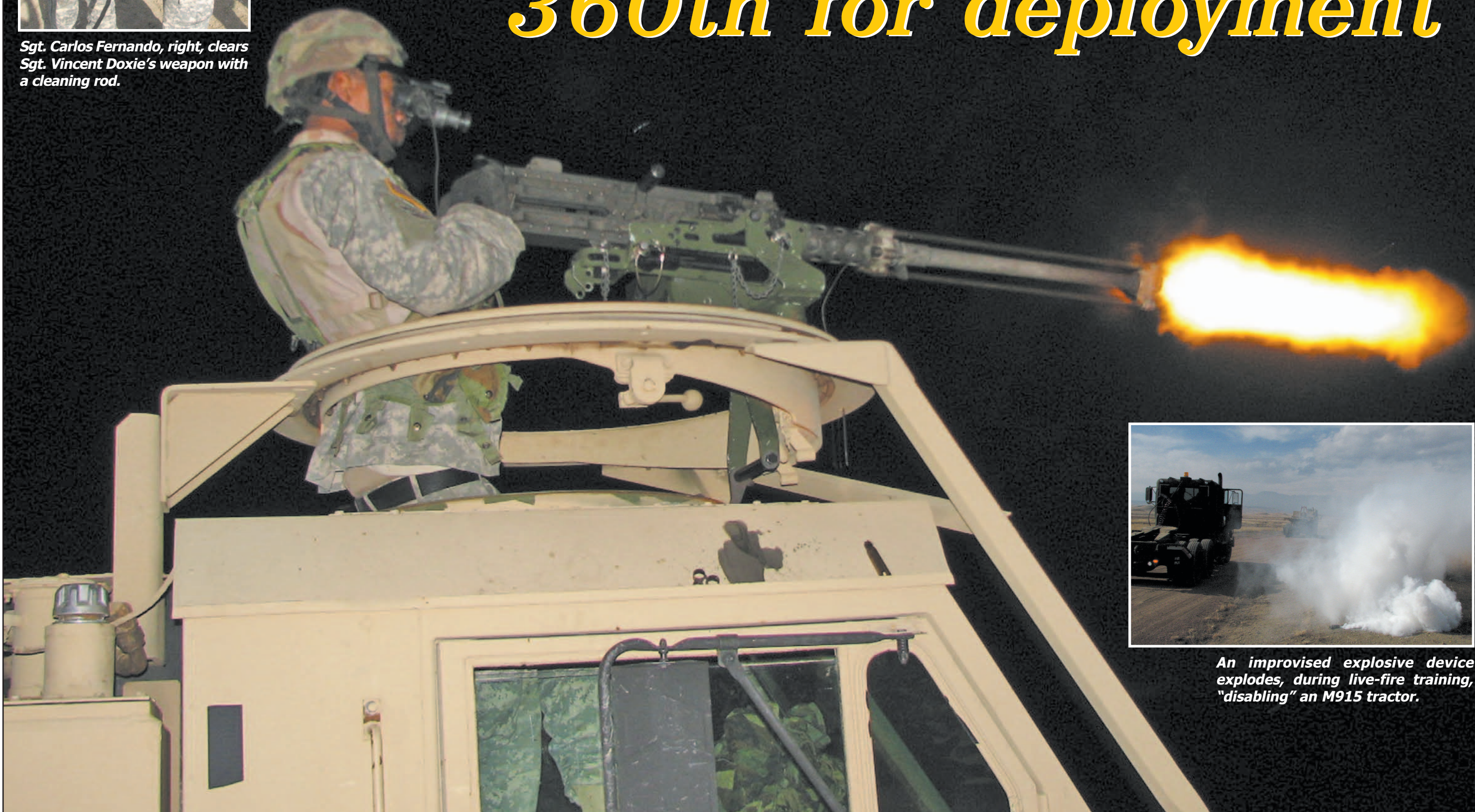


After the first live-fire training run, Soldiers from 306th Transportation Company gather in a safe zone to unload weapons.



Sgt. Carlos Fernando, right, clears Sgt. Vincent Doxie's weapon with a cleaning rod.

Live-fire training prepares 360th for deployment



An improvised explosive device explodes, during live-fire training, "disabling" an M915 tractor.

Spc. Curtis Williams, wearing night vision goggles, fires a .50-caliber machine gun.

**Story and photos by
Rebecca E. Tonn**
Mountaineer staff

Live-fire training was conducted Friday at Bessey Range 111 by the 360th Transportation Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 43rd Area Support Group, in preparation for its upcoming deployment to Iraq.

The weather was balmy as Soldiers, wearing Individual Battle Armor and Small Arms Protective Inserts, lined up to receive .50-caliber rounds for M-2 machine guns or 5.56 mm ammunition for M-16 rifles and M-249 squad automatic weapons.

Sgt. Leland Gilmore, noncommissioned officer in charge of ammunition, was on hand to ensure that each Soldier received the correct amount and the right kind of ammunition.

"We've got to keep the blank rounds separate from the live rounds. If a live round is fired through a weapon that has a blank adapter, the rifle can explode," Gilmore said.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Dorn, NCOIC of the range, said the company is due to deploy mid-summer.

"Our main priority today is realistic training and safety," Dorn said.

The convoy included M915 A3 tractors, some hooked up to M871 A2 trailers, and M1075 Palletized Load Systems with M-2s or SAWs mounted on top. Soldiers drove tactical vehicles on a 2.5 kilometer course, shooting live rounds at moving and timed targets en route.

A simulated improvised explosive device detonated, "disabling" an M915. Soldiers ran to hook up the tractor to the tractor in front of it, to tow it out of the kill zone. Three Soldiers carried a Soldier, "wounded" in the same blast, on a litter to a waiting helicopter.

After the first live-fire run, Staff Sgt. Shad McCrary held an after action review, stressing that Soldiers must be aware of muzzle direction and listen to communications from command headquarters.

"Never get complacent out there," McCrary said.

Later that day, 1st Platoon Leader, 2nd Lt. Matthew Brown said the unit's training was realistic.

"It directly correlates with our wartime mission — line hauling fuel and other materials," Brown said.

Deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom 1 and 3, Staff Sgt. Anthony Williams, 3rd Platoon sergeant, said that the unit's training is effective.

"It's good to train with live fire under stressful conditions so Soldiers know what to do and when and how to do it. We've got a great platoon and commander and 1st Sgt. (Josie) Jahnke is splendid," Williams said.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Wolff conducted an AAR after the second round of live-fire training.

"We have all these different people coming together and we have to learn to be one — to know what the other is thinking. This training builds confidence — when we're deployed, you'll have to trust the Soldier next to you with your life," Wolff said.

After completing two live-fire training runs, Soldiers from the 360th donned night-vision goggles and adjusted them. Then they drove the course in the dark, without headlights, adapting to driving, maneuvering and firing while wearing night vision goggles.

Commander of the 360th, Capt. Leuila Alaimaleata, better known as "Captain Al," said that overall the training was outstanding.

"I feel comfortable that they are ready to do a gun-truck mission in support of the war fighters," Alaimaleata said.

Veteran of two deployments to Iraq, Sgt. Dan Kress said that training is about waking up and realizing this is for real.

"Some of these people have been working in offices — they haven't been in the field before. They need to realize the insurgents are getting smarter at hiding IEDs. In Iraq, you drive the same stretch of road and you start to memorize what the piles of rocks look like — so if the rocks are moved you know there's an IED hidden.

"Seasoned drivers can drive for 500 miles without a break. You're wearing body armor and Kevlar, you're sweating in the 130 degree heat — so you have to stay alert, stay awake and stay hydrated. Keep your eyes open.

"The main thing is — don't take this lightly," Kress said.

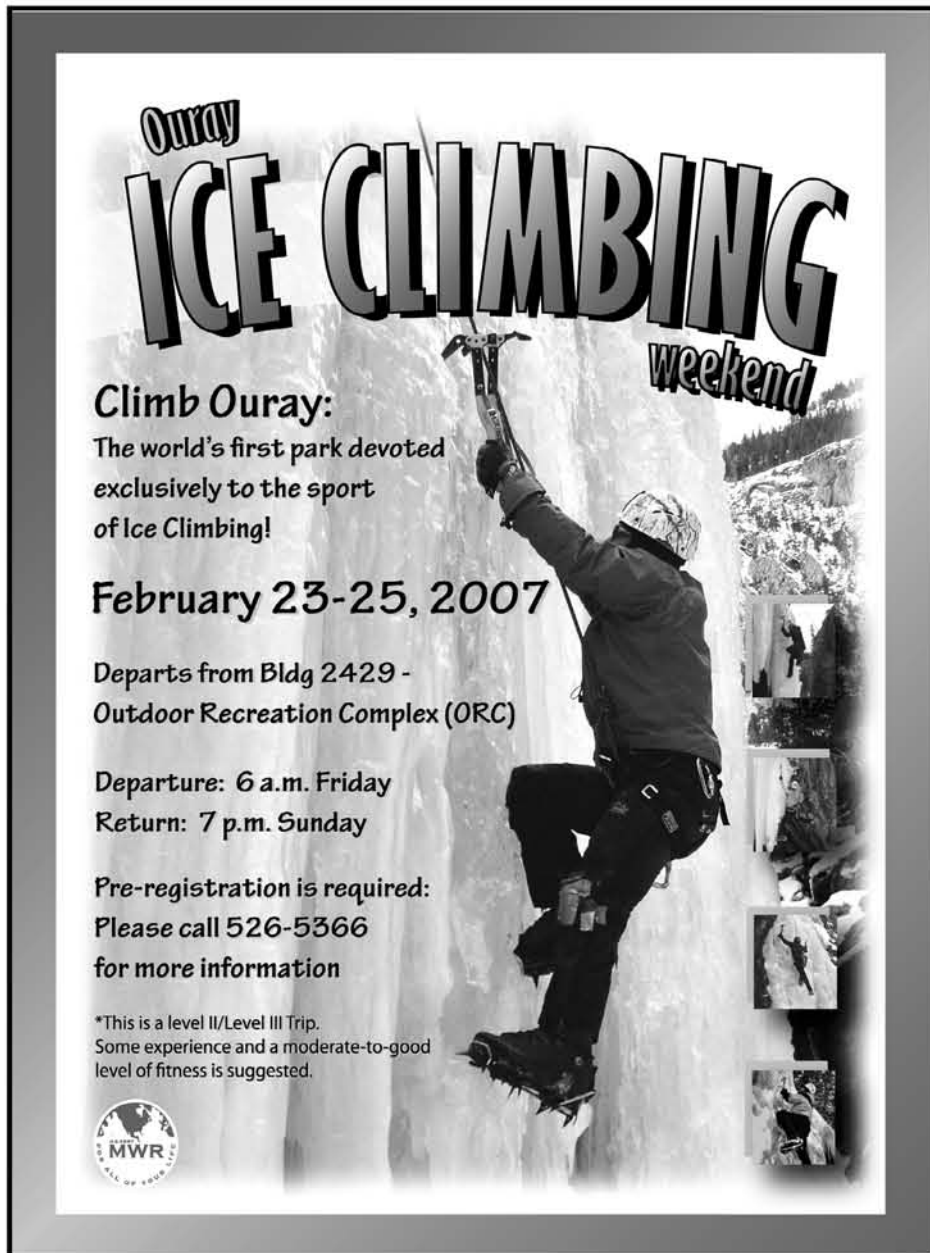
Layout by Jeanne Mazera



Out & About

February 17 - 23, 2007

Proudly Brought to You by Your Fort Carson Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation
Visit us at <http://mwr.carson.army.mil>



Ouray ICE CLIMBING weekend

Climb Ouray:
The world's first park devoted exclusively to the sport of Ice Climbing!


February 23-25, 2007

Departs from Bldg 2429 - Outdoor Recreation Complex (ORC)

Departure: 6 a.m. Friday
Return: 7 p.m. Sunday

Pre-registration is required:
Please call 526-5366 for more information

*This is a level II/Level III Trip. Some experience and a moderate-to-good level of fitness is suggested.




3 New Ways 2 Get Amped!

GRAND OPENING
ALTERNATE ESCAPES AND JAVA CAFE

WAY 1: ONLINE GAMING (MPOG) & WI-FI ACCESS
WAY 2: COFFEE LOUNGE, FEATURING SEATTLE'S BEST!
WAY 3: MORE THAN 30 TELEVISION SCREENS

WAY COOL!

DATE: THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY
TIME: 3 PM
LOCATION: THE OLD XTREMES BUILDING AT 1532 SPECKER AVENUE







Now Showing FREE Sunday Movies

Sunday - February 18th:
Barnyard (PG) at 1 p.m.
The Incredibles (PG) at 4 p.m.

Sunday - February 25th:
Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (PG) at 1 p.m.
Little Miss Sunshine (R) at 4 p.m.

Freedom Performing Arts Center
Building 1129
Corner of Specker and Ellis Ave.
For more information:
526-1867




Save the Date!

It's quite an Eggsperience

March 31, 2007
Fort Carson
Special Events Center
Bldg. 1829
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
call: 526-4494 for info



SPORTS & LEISURE

Rams cheerleaders up close

Editor's note: Four members of the St. Louis Rams Cheerleading squad visited the Mountain Post Feb. 4. The women took time to answer questions for the Mountaineer Athlete of the Week article.



Blakelee

How did you get started in cheerleading?

I started dancing when I was 3 years old. I was on the dance team in high school and just decided to try to stay with it when I grew up.

Did you play sports growing up?

Sports wasn't my thing when I grew up. My parents put me in soccer and T-ball, but it wasn't for me.

What has been your best moment in sports?

I would say going to the Super Bowl in my rookie year with the Rams. It was the first Super Bowl after Sept. 11 and it was the support of all the fans and the U2 concert at halftime that made it special.

If you could be a professional football player, what position would you play?

I don't think I could play defense because I am not strong enough so it would have to be quarterback. I like to be the center of attention and I think I could help others be successful.

Lisa (team captain)

How did you get started in cheerleading?

I started dancing when I was 2 years old, and have always had a fascination with dancing. I tried out for the team three years ago and was lucky enough to make it, so here I am.

Did you play sports growing up?

I played a little volleyball and ran track.

What has been your best moment in sports?

That would have to be the Cardinals winning the World Series last year. It was exciting to see the people of St. Louis pulling together.

If you could be a professional football player, what position would you play?

Quarterback, because hopefully I wouldn't get tackled too often. Also, I like being a leader and helping pull the team together.



Laura

How did you get started in cheerleading?

I started dancing when I was five years old, danced at a studio for about 10 years and was a cheerleader in high school and college.

Did you play sports growing up?

I did try to play softball when I was young but my parents took me out of it because I would

be in the outfield practicing on my dancing.

What has been your best moment in sports?

The first time I was introduced as a Ram cheerleader two years ago at our home opener. It was just a very exciting time.

If you could be a professional football player, what position would you play?

Wide receiver. I would want to be the one catching the passes and running into the end zone.

Michell

How did you get started in cheerleading?

I started dancing when I was 3 years old, my mom was a dance instructor and is a former NFL cheerleader who cheered for the Cardinals when they were in St. Louis.

Did you play sports growing up?

I played softball and basketball and ran track growing up. I was a pretty good sprinter and had the opportunity to compete for the Missouri state championship in high school.

What has been your best moment in sports?

Being successful in the high jump when I was in high school. I'm not very tall and when my coach asked me to compete in that event I thought he was crazy but I was able to do it.

If you could be a professional football player, what position would you play?

Halfback. I played powder puff football in high school and I always enjoyed taking the ball and running.



On the Bench

Byers dominates at Dave Schultz wrestling tourney

**Story and photo by
Walt Johnson**

Mountaineer staff

At last year's Dave Schultz Memorial wrestling tournament, Dremiel Byers, World Class Athlete Program heavyweight wrestler, lost in the finals.

A year later Byers would have no part of the emotions of losing again as he dominated the United State's Russ Davis to win the heavyweight Greco-Roman championships Saturday at the United States Olympic Center in Colorado Springs.

The tournament featured 380 athletes from 25 countries who came together for the annual event designed to honor the former Olympic champion who was killed at his home in the late '90s.

Byers performance against Davis was not the only outstanding match for the nation's favorite to represent the country at the next summer Olympics. His wrestling skills during the tournament were enough to earn him the best wrestler of the tournament award also.

The Army currently is accepting applications from active duty military to compete for a spot on the All-Army Chess Team. Members of this highly competitive 12-person team will travel to Fort Myer, Va., in May for the All-Army Chess Championships and will represent the Army during the June Inter-Service Chess Championships at Marine Corps Miramar, San Diego.

Soldiers with prior experience in tournament play and who are rated with the United States Chess Federation may compete to become members of the All-Army team. If you're not yet rated, the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation Intramural Sports Office can help you qualify.

Those selected to the team will practice for the championships through competition with local chess organizations and tournaments held throughout the Colorado Springs area.

Applications for the All-Army team are due to DMWR higher headquarters not later than Apr. 20. For more information, contact Steve Hollister at 526-1372 or by e-mail: steve.hollister@us.army.mil.



Dremiel Byers, right second row, and members of the World Class Athlete program look on as James Johnson takes part in his match at the Dave Schultz Memorial wrestling tournament at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs Saturday.

Carson loses squeaker to Peterson

**Story and photo by
Walt Johnson**

Mountaineer staff

Fort Carson's varsity basketball team dropped a heartbreaking 79-78 decision to Peterson Air Force Base Feb. 9 at Peterson.

The post team took the Peterson team's best shot in the first half and then came storming back in the second half to make a close game out of what appeared to be a "laugher" in the first half.

The Peterson team got off to a double digit lead in the first half and it seemed like the Carson team would be run right off the floor.

But Fort Carson Coach Henry Floyd made some key adjustments and the post team whittled the double digit lead down slowly before half time and then really went to work on reducing the lead as the second half began.

Late in the second half the post team actually took a lead on the Peterson team and it looked like it would pull off an improbable victory.

Carson held a one-point lead at 78-77 with just under a minute left in the game when Peterson's Mike Chandler missed a jumper that would have given his team the lead. Carson came down the floor and with the 35-second clock winding down to zero,

team Peterson was forced to shoot the ball and missed the shot.

Peterson Coach Marvin Hires called a play to get the explosive Lyrion Paul the basketball and Paul was fouled by Carson with six seconds left in the game. As Paul went to the free throw line to attempt the first shot, Carson Coach Floyd called a time out to ice the shooter, but the look on Hires' face was full of confidence that his player would not be shaken by the tactic.

"I had no concern that Paul wasn't going to go to the line and make the free throws. Before he shot them, I told the guys in the huddle what I wanted them to do after he made the free throws," Hires said.

Paul did go to the line and made both free throws, to give Peterson a one-point lead but Carson had six seconds left to win the game. However, the Peterson defense forced a fall away 25-foot jump shot that fell short and gave the Peterson team a well-earned victory.

After the game, Floyd, who coached his last game for the post team, said he was proud of the team's effort and just as proud of the fact that he is leaving the post team in far better shape than he inherited it. He said the sky is the limit for this team and his only regret is he has to leave the team for civilian life.



Fort Carson's Robert Wright slams down two points during action at Peterson Air Force Base Feb. 9.

Mountaineer Youth Sports

Duece!

Fountain-Fort Carson's Terrance Hutchins, right, fires a jump shot over the outstretched arm of a Sierra Stallion defender during the Trojans' 53-50 victory over the Stallions Feb. 9.

The Trojans will close the regular season tonight against Cheyenne Mountain and then the boys and girls teams will wait to see where they will be playing in the state tournament, scheduled to begin Thursday.



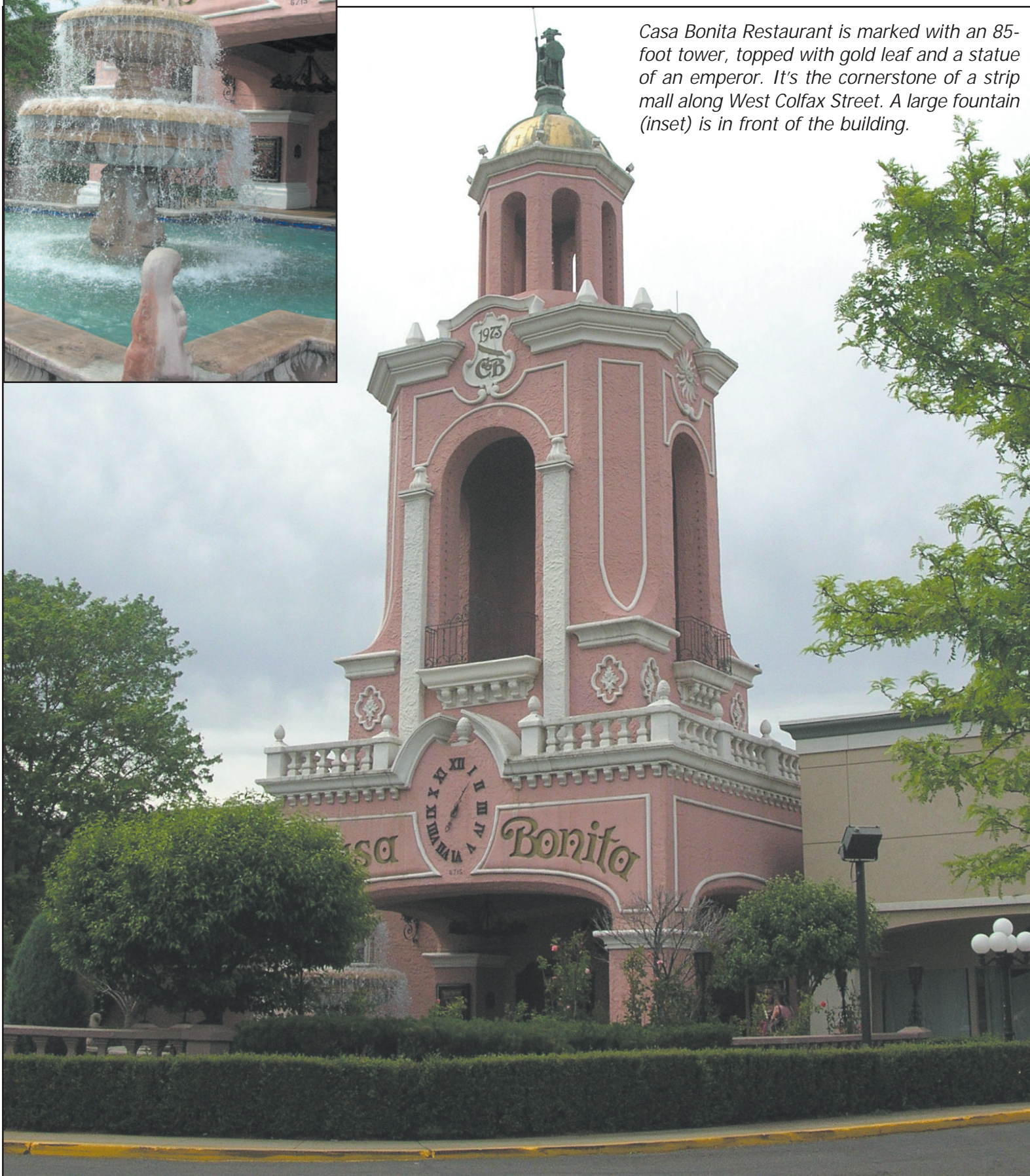
Photo by Walt Johnson



Casa Bonita:

A Mexican-style village with fun, food and ambiance

Casa Bonita Restaurant is marked with an 85-foot tower, topped with gold leaf and a statue of an emperor. It's the cornerstone of a strip mall along West Colfax Street. A large fountain (inset) is in front of the building.



Places

**Story and photos by
Nel Lampe**

Mountaineer staff

Casa Bonita is a popular family restaurant in the Denver area. It's been doing a thriving business since 1974. Casa Bonita was a theme restaurant before it was a popular term. But it's not the kind of theme restaurant you might expect — no celebrities' year books and guitars on display. The gift shop isn't filled with expensive leather jackets with the restaurant chain logo.

The restaurant is actually an authentic-looking Mexican village at night. Fireflies and stars twinkle against a dark sky.

Youngsters can hardly finish their meal before wanting to explore the village — whether or not it's the first visit. There are 30 attractions to explore, including Bart's Cave; a puppet theater, a wishing well, a Mercado (market) an arcade, a pond of goldfish and a piñata to break. Children watch the skits at the flat-rock stage near the waterfall, delight in the divers jumping off the 30-foot high waterfall into a 14-foot deep pool and sticking their heads into the caves, caverns and mines throughout the village.

There's no admission to this fun-filled village; your ticket is your meal, and anyone older than 2 must have a meal. But, people really

don't come here for the food, but for the ambiance and entertainment. Although adults enjoy it too, Casa Bonita is geared to children.

The food is pre-ordered when your part of the line reaches the order station. By the time you reach the serving station, the meals you ordered are placed on your tray, along with whatever soft drink or beer you chose. If you don't want Mexican-style food, choose a chicken-fried steak or chicken dinner.

The Mexican food selections on the adult menu include a beef or chicken "all you can eat" combination for about \$11. A taco or enchilada plate, taco salad or

See **Casa Bonita** on Page 46



**Places to see in the
Pikes Peak area.**

Feb. 15, 2007



A skit is presented on the stage by the waterfall every half hour. This skit features "pirates."



A mariachi band entertains Tuesday through Sunday evenings in the Casa Bonita Restaurant



A youngster watches a puppet show in the theater near the Mercado.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time:** just over an hour
- **For ages:** all
- **Type:** theme restaurant
- **Fun factor:** ★★★★★

(Out of 5 stars)

Wallet damage: \$\$ or \$\$\$

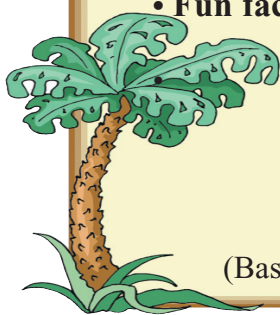
\$ = Less than \$20

\$\$ = \$21 to \$40

\$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60

\$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80

(Based on a family of four)

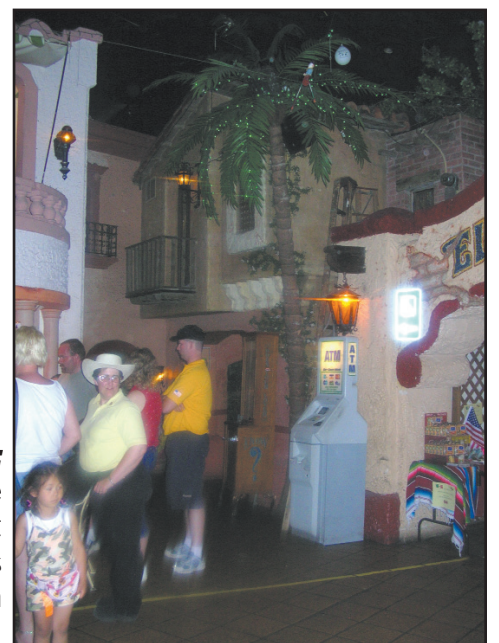


Left:

Diners pick up plates of food at the serving station in Casa Bonita Restaurant.

Right:

The restaurant resembles a Mexican village.



Casa Bonita

From Page 45

fajitas is about \$9. The chicken fried steak or fried chicken are also about \$9. There are soft drinks and some adult drink choices.

"Little Amigos" plates, for children, run about \$4 for ages 2-12.

Remember, the price of the meal also includes the entertainment.

Diners carry their own trays to the dining area where a host will direct the group to a table. Someone will help carry trays if assistance is needed. Ask to be seated poolside if possible, where you can watch the skits and divers while you eat. Other choices are the cave, the mine, a balcony or hacienda. If you can't see the entertainment while dining, you can catch a few shows later.

Perhaps the best thing on the menu — an endless supply of sopapillas — is served as dessert.

The server brings a basket of the deep-fried dough squares. Try them with honey. When the basket is empty, just raise the little flag on the table to summon a

server for another basket.

Casa Bonita was created in an old department store that once anchored a strip mall in the 6700 block of East Colfax.

The creator of Casa Bonita restaurants, Bill Waugh, started with one in Little Rock, Ark., then two more in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Okla. The Denver area was the last one he built in 1974. Waugh heard a story about a Mexican cantina where soldiers went to relax and forget about their troubles. The restaurants are his version of that story. He added more details and entertainment, making the last one the most elaborate. The Denver-area restaurant is the only Casa Bonita remaining, although it has changed owners.

A large fountain, shipped from Mexico in several pieces, was later installed in front of the restaurant. In summer months hundreds of flowers surround the fountain.

Casa Bonita has an 85-foot pink stucco bell tower topped with the figure of Mexico's last emperor. The tower is outlined in small white lights.

Inside Casa Bonita, palm

trees, flowers and fountains abound. There's a waterfall and pool. Mariachi bands and strolling musicians provide musical ambiance. Skits are performed near the waterfall, and include cliff divers, a gorilla skit, flame jugglers, the sheriff and an outlaw. Mexican dancers also perform.

Puppet shows are presented in the theater near the Mercado.

Walk through the themed dining rooms if you didn't eat in one. Check out the cave room, complete with rock walls, stalactites and "bats." Visit the mine, the hacienda, and the jail. Have your caricature drawn or have a picture made. Buy a souvenir T-shirt or piñata at the Mercado. Have some cotton candy or play games in the arcade.

As so many diners are repeat guests, they know about the long lines to get in and tend to be patient. Winter crowds are usually Colorado citizens, but summer crowds also include lots of tourists and lines are even longer. Because of the serving style and limited menu, lines move rather quickly. Casa Bonita

seats about 1,100 people. Lines are longest at evening meals and weekends in summer, perhaps up to two hours, and shortest in mid afternoon and in winter.

Casa Bonita is open from 11 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturdays, the restaurant is open until 10 p.m.

Casa Bonita can arrange birthday party packages, if planned well ahead. The restaurant will try to accommodate parties — for a minimum of seven people. A decorated table and a host or hostess will be provided. Birthday party guests don't have to wait in line, but are served after being seated, and the honoree gets a T-shirt. Call (303) 232-5115 to make party arrangements.

To reach Casa Bonita, take Interstate 25 north to Denver, taking the Colfax exit and go west to the 6700 block, in Lakewood. Formerly known as the JCRS shopping center, it is now the Bell Tower Plaza. Watch for the pink bell tower landmark on the north side of the street.

Parking is in the shopping center parking lot.

Get Out!

Carnivale

Manitou Springs holds its annual Carnivale Parade Saturday at 1 p.m., a Mardi Gras-style celebration of art, great food and good times. The parade begins at Memorial Park in Manitou Springs. Prior to the parade, a Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cook-Off is in Soda Springs Park in downtown Manitou Springs, starting at 11 a.m. the same day.

Musicals

“Capitol Steps” is Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center Theater, at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave. in downtown Pueblo. Tickets are \$20, call (719) 295-7200.

“Aida” is April 13-14 in the Pikes Peak Center, part of the Broadway series. Call 520-SHOW for tickets.

Academy concerts

The Academy Concerts series in Arnold Hall Theater at the Air Force Academy features “Wonderful Town” March 3 and Chip Davis and Mannheim Steamroller May 4. Contact the Academy box office at 333-4497 for information. Shows are in Arnold Hall Theater at the Air Force Academy.

New planetarium show

“Cosmic Collisions” is the new show in Gates Planetarium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Dramatic events which

took place in the universe are re-created and included in the planetarium show. Tickets are \$8 for the show. The Denver museum is in Denver’s City Park, take the Colorado Boulevard exit from Interstate 25, going north. Call (800) 925-2250 for times, or go to www.dmns.org.

IMAX festival

IMAX fans can see one of the top six films showing at the IMAX theater in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. The films, “Everest,” “Blue Planet,” “Dolphins,” “Seasons,” “Africa: The Serengeti,” and “Shackleton’s Antarctic Adventure,” are being rerun daily. Admission for each film is \$8 for adults and \$6 for ages 3-18. Call (303) 322-7009 or log on to www.cmns.org to check film schedules. The festival runs through March 15.

Magic

David Copperfield performs his magic March 13 in shows at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave. Call 520-SHOW for ticket information.

Concerts

“Goo Goo Dolls” perform Monday at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave. Ticket prices start at \$37; call 520-SHOW for tickets.

“Last of the Breed Tour” is March 13, at 7:30 p.m. This concert, in the Colorado Springs World Arena, features Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Ray Price and Asleep at the Wheel. Go to www.worldarena.com or call 576-2626 for ticket information.

The Air Force Academy Band presents free concerts in the Pikes Peak Center, Sunday at 2 p.m., March 4 at 2:30 p.m., April 22 at 2:30 p.m. and May 15 at 7 p.m. Pick up free tickets at the Pikes Peak Center box office.

Ski trips

Outdoor Recreation has “get on the bus ski trips;” call 526-5366 for tickets and information on upcoming trips. Vail Resorts offers active duty military and Department of Defense identification card holders lodging at the Great Divide Hotel in Breckenridge for \$98 per night. There are blackout dates. Lodging packages can be booked through Fort Carson Information, Tickets and Registration, 526-5366. Vail has lift tickets for DOD ID card holders for \$61 on weekdays and \$67 on weekends for Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone. Tickets for active duty military are \$47 for adults and \$27 for children. These prices are good only for tickets purchased at the post ITR office.

Disney on Ice

“Monster, Inc.” is in the World Arena March 22-25, with 7:30 p.m. shows March 23 and 24, and daytime shows March 24, 25. Tickets start at \$17, call 576-2626 or stop by the box office.

Theater

“Little Shop of Horrors,” runs Saturday through March 11 in the Fine Arts Center theater, 30 W. Dale St. Productions are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 634-5583.

Compiled by Nel Lampe